

Appreciate Our Pools

Did you notice you are driving on a ridge? This dike was built to create freshwater impoundments on the left and separate them from the tidal salt marsh on the right. Water levels in these freshwater pools are adjusted throughout the year to provide a range of habitats for a variety of birds.



Wood Duck



Forster's Tern



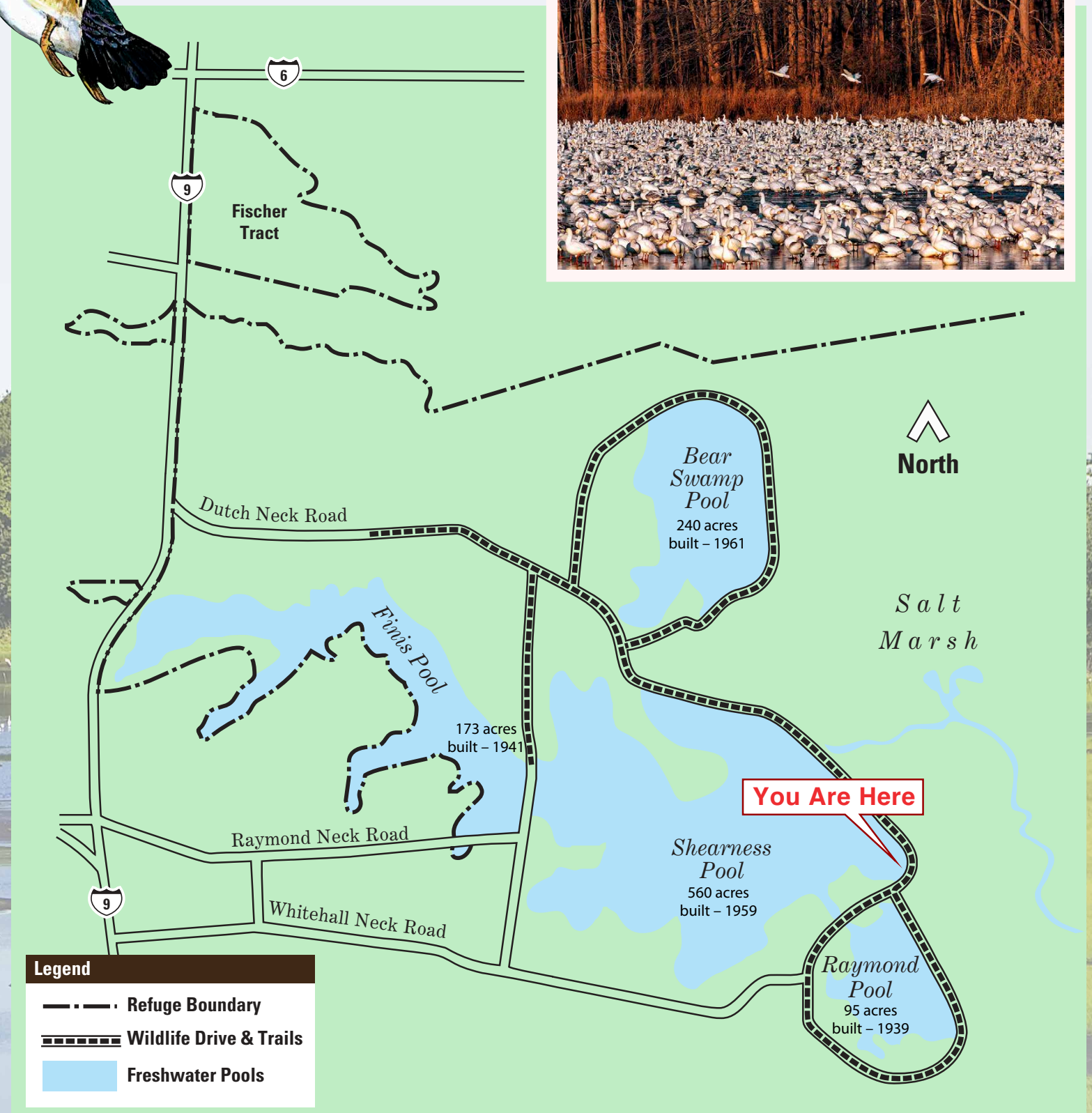
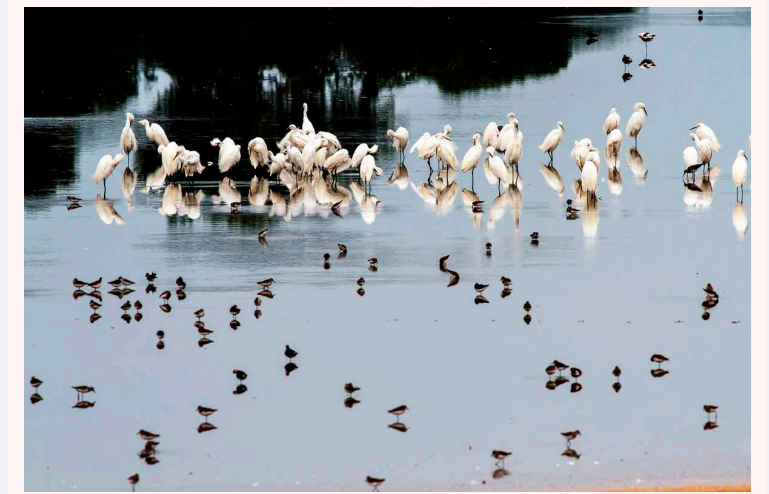
American Avocet



Dunlin



Snowy Egret



Late Spring and Summer

In late spring, we remove the stops from the water control structures, lowering the water level in the impoundments. Plants begin to grow, and invertebrates abound, providing food for shorebirds and wading birds.

Soon dunlin, yellowlegs, dowitchers, semipalmated sandpipers, plovers, and other shorebirds arrive in search of insects and worms exposed at the water's edge. Look for great blue herons and egrets feasting on fish caught in the shrinking pools.

Fall and Winter

In early fall, the water stops are replaced, allowing rain to fill the pools. The summer vegetation — millet, sprangletop, beggarticks, and bulrush — provide food and shelter for waterfowl returning from the north. As the water rises, some grasses are completely submerged, while others emerge above the surface. This variety helps support a diversity of wildlife species.



Green-winged Teal

